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Local Man Sentenced for Possessing Child Pornography from the Internet

San Diego, CA (February 8, 1999) -- A San Diego man has been ordered to attend sex offender counseling and register as a sex offender for knowingly possessing child pornography downloaded onto his computer from the Internet. In a case prosecuted by the City Attorney's Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Unit, the defendant has been placed on probation for three years following his conviction by a San Diego jury.

The case was investigated by the San Diego Police Department. At trial, a San Diego Police detective testified that the defendant took his computer to a repair store because he was having problems with his hard drive. While fixing the computer, employees of the computer store found pictures of child pornography on the defendant's hard drive. They notified the police. The detective got a search warrant and reviewed the contents of the computer. The evidence showed that the defendant had created different file folders in his hard drive entitled, "young," "teens," and "bondage." In each of these file folders, the detective found pictures of child pornography downloaded from the Internet. The evidence showed that five of the pictures were children engaged in sexual conduct.

"The law views child pornography as child abuse. And child pornography is not something that we, as a society, should tolerate," City Attorney Casey Gwinn said. "This case is significant because it demonstrates that law enforcement officers are working closely with prosecutors to ensure that people knowingly possessing pornographic materials involving children are arrested and prosecuted."

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